

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 SY-05

PPT-01 SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 VO-03 SSM-03 OMB-01 IO-13

SAB-01 OPR-02 AID-05 ORM-02 /100 W

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O P 161351Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9141

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5413

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: FURTHER INFORMATION ON SYRIAN/LEBANESE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

REF: DAMASCUS 5376

1. SUMMARY: FOR LEBANESE AND FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN LEBANON, CROSSING INTO SYRIAN PROMISES TO BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT. THOSE PHYSICALLY UNABLE REACH JOUNIEH TO SECURE PERMIT FROM FRANGIE AUTHORITIES ARE BEING TOLD TO APPLY FOR PERMIT FROM HIS GOVERNORS IN BEKAA VALLEY AT EITHER ZAHLE OR BAALBEK. END SUMMARY.

2. LEBANESE BUSINESSMAN TOLD AMBASSADOR AUGUST 16 THAT HE HAD ENTERED SYRIA MIDNIGHT AUGUST 14/15 AFTER OBTAINING ENTRY PERMIT FROM LENRI LAHOUD, GOVENOR OF ZAHLE. SOURCE SAID EVEN WITH PERMIT IN HIS POSSESSION IT TOOK HIM TWO HOURS TO CONVINCE SARG BORDER OFFICIALS TO ALLOW HIM ENTER SYRIA. SOURCE SAID HE CONFIRMED VIA INTERMEDIARIES FROM LEBANESE DEPUTY MIRABI AND PRESIDENT'S BROTHER, RIF-'AT AL-ASAD, THAT LEBANESE WHO UNABLE PASS BY JOUNIEH
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ENROUTE TO DAMASCUS SHOULD GET PERMITS FROM ZAHLE

GOVERNOR.

3. DEPFONMIN RAFI TOLD EMBASSADOR TODAY HE TRYING TO ARRANGE SPECIAL PERMIT FROM SARG MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR THOSE OF HIS LEBANESE RELATIVES RESIDENT IN TRIPOLI WHO UNABLE REACH "DULY CONSTITUTED LEBANESE AUTHORITIES" FOR REQUIRED TRAVEL PERMIT. THEY HAD BEEN TOLD TO GET PERMIT FORM GOVERNOR OF BAALBEK. HOWEVER MILITARY SITUATION EFFECTIVELY BARS TRIPOLI RESIDENTS FROM REACHING BAALBEK. UNDER NEW REGS TRIPOLITANIANS CANNOT EVEN CONTINUE TO TRAVEL TO TARTOUS BY BOAT FROM TRIPOLI. THUS, RAFAI SAID, HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE SPECIAL APPEAL ON THEIR BEHALF DIRECTLY TO MINISTER.

4. BASED ON FIGURES SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION, VERY FEW LEBANESE HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO CROSS INTO SYRIA SINCE BORDER RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED. AS OF 1200L AUGUST 16, NO NIV APPLIANTS HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED WHO ENTERED SYRIA AFTER AUGUST 13. CONSULAR SECTION HAS ONLY BEEN PROCESSING NIV AND IV APPLICATIONS FROM LEBANESE ALREADY IN SYRIA WHEN BORDER REGULATIONS CHANGED AUGUST 13.
MURPHY

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NNN

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